

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **TUBBERCURRY**
County : **SLIGO**
Category : **C**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 22-06-1999

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1999	Mark Awarded 1998
Overall Developmental Approach	50	20	20
The Built Environment	40	26	26
Landscaping	40	27	26
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	12	12
Litter Control	40	25	23
Tidiness	20	11	10
Residential Areas	30	24	22
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	22	22
General Impression	10	5	5
TOTAL MARK	300	172	166

Tubbercurry, County Sligo

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

The completed questionnaire was helpful in outlining some of your current and future activities. As stated last year, competitors are requested to include a proposed long-term work programme for the village. A concise 3/5 year plan using the headings of the competition as a guide, and outlining achievable targets for the committee will help focus your work in the future. It also provides the adjudicator with an opportunity to measure your progress. The committee is obviously thinking along these lines already, having outlined some future plans for the town. Publication of your development plan or presenting it in a accessible location, may be of interest to local people, who will appreciate the ideas and work your committee are involved with.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Tubbercurry is fortunate to have such an attractive central focal point at the heart of the town. Wolfe Tone Square, with its landscaping and sculpture pieces acknowledging the musical heritage of the area looks very well, and it is noteworthy to see the work in progress that will further enhance the presentation of this area. The overall presentation of the commercial premises in the town was generally good on the day of adjudication, with many brightly painted premises and attractive flowers features. However, some poorly presented premises will continue to detract from the overall appearance of the streetscape. Dereliction, poor maintenance, untidiness, and plastic signage, contribute to the unattractive presentation of some buildings. The VEC building looked well with some attractive flower features. St. George's Church and the R.C. Church and grounds both looked well, as did the Marist Convent and School. Once again, approaching the square on Emmet Street, Cawley's and the adjoining properties looked particularly well with some beautiful hanging baskets and window boxes. Some of these adjoining houses appear to be actually uninhabited, and demonstrate a thoughtful approach towards dereliction, that would be most effective if practised in other areas of the town. M. Kennedy's looked very well on the corner. The Sligo Leader Group need to tidy the front of their premises, and Bailey's Nursing Home looked very well with some attractive landscaping on this road. The Public Toilets looked very unapproachable, which is a pity because your comprehensive tourist map is located here. Premises that caught the eye included T. Brennan's, The Ox Mountain Lodge and Eugene's. Killoran's was freshly painted but their canopy needs a little attention, Leonard's is a fine building, but the perennial flowers need some attention here. Mullarkey's looks well, but they must remain conscious of the presentation of the parking area as

well as their building and landscaping. Other premises that looked well with some attractive flower features were The Kings Inn, Super Valu, Bank of Ireland, Gillispie's, and the premises beside it, and The Health Centre with its very attractive landscaping. Tubbercurry Motors still looks very untidy. In the Industrial Estate, Basta, and the N.C.F. Headquarters, looked well, other premises have some tidy lawns and but some shrub beds need attention. Some fencing in this area also needs to be repaired and repainted. There is also some rubble in the Car Park on Gallagher Road that needs to be tidied, and some fencing and footpaths need attention in this area also. Humber Street and its environs still has a number of derelict buildings, but judging from last year's report some plans were underway then to tackle this issue/area. Many other competition entrants have similarly faced the challenge of dereliction in their towns, sometimes with just some imaginative cosmetic paint work, it would be good to see some development in this important area of the town. The T.T.C. also has a duty to encourage free access on the streets of the town for people with disabilities. Many shops have, displays, gas cylinders, free standing signs etc. on the footpath, this should be discouraged.

LANDSCAPING

The landscape features throughout the town provide a lovely splash of colour to the streetscape. The beds were generally well cared for, and attractively presented with a well chosen selection of plants that will provide colour and content throughout the year. The small perennial bed beside the A.I.B. Bank needs to be tidied, and the area adjoining it has potential to be a nice landscape feature in itself. The shrub beds in the Square were also nicely maintained and presented. The bath tub was noted outside Mc Guinness's, but the free standing one opposite needs its planting replaced and weeded, some nice flower beds were noted on this road to Mountain View. Particular mention must go to the very colour flower bed at the rear entrance to the Supervalu Supermarket. The well maintained flower beds were once again noted at the towns filling stations, as were the many attractive tubs, and hanging baskets throughout the town. Well done to everyone for their hard work and efforts.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

This is a relatively new category in the competition, and the T.T.C. has a role in preserving and enhancing the wildlife habitats and the environment within the town. Trees, green areas, riverbanks, wild flower meadows, nesting boxes and hedgerows all offer opportunities within this category. Work with a local wildlife expert, ENFO, the schools and relevant local bodies to develop this area further. You are already exploring this area with the possibility of some walks, be

careful with your choice of signs, avoid a proliferation of unsuitable signs that may detract from the environment you are trying to enhance and develop.

LITTER CONTROL

There was some litter in evidence on the day of adjudication, around the square area, and in the area around the Fire Station. Some bins need their paint work refreshed. It is good to see that you have started an Anti-litter programme in the local schools as suggested. This important category is a challenge faced by many competitors, and both the committee and the community must remain ever vigilant in its efforts to control litter. Household circulars, clean-up days, voluntary daily clean-ups during busy periods of the year, have been particularly successful in other towns and villages. A litter management programme incorporating aspects of the afore mentioned points and well maintained litter bins are all part of this category within the competition. Your work in this area is beginning to pay dividends.

TIDINESS

The attractive flowers and many well maintained premises contributed to a general impression of tidiness in Tubbercurry. As mentioned earlier dereliction remains a challenge, and some areas still need some attention to improve the whole image of the town. It is important that all areas of the town are maintained, kept tidy and weed free, including forecourts, back yards, kerb edges, all open spaces, and areas between properties. Back alleys/yards, should be appropriately screened particularly in areas that will attract rubbish or dumping. The by-pass still has some problems with dereliction, untidy back areas, and graffiti, although it was noted that some owners have erected some screening gates. The N.C.F. Stores on the Ballina Road still looks untidy with a poor presentation for a business premises on a main road. The new filling station on the Sligo road needs to tidy its open area adjacent to the road, and a large unsightly gate close to St. George's Church needs its paint refreshed.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Many of the houses in and on the approaches to the town were generally well presented and maintained. Some tidy hedges and boundary walls, flowers, tubs and hanging baskets were noted. Once again the beautiful and colourful flowers in some individual gardens were noted, in particular many of the Guest Houses throughout the town had some lovely gardens, and many homes took responsibility for maintaining landscape features outside and around their premises, well done to all concerned. Also a number of well presented houses with attractive flower features and

gardens were noted in the town centre, Mountain View Estate and the housing development adjacent to the Fire Station, highlighting those that need attention. The green area looked tidy and well cared for at the Mountain View Estate, the smart refurbishment of the homes in this area continues, and will look very well when fully completed. Three attractive town houses caught the eye on the way up to Mountain View. The flower beds were noted again at the housing development beside the Fire Station. Rockfield housing development looks very well even as construction continues, with some very attractive features and landscaping. Householders must always pay due consideration to repairing and maintaining boundary walls, forecourts fences, and gates, and that any untidy side or back yards must be adequately screened with a gate or fence.

ROADS STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The approach roads set the scene for the visitor and deserve particular consideration. Some of the approach roads and smaller roads, still need some work done in order to achieve a consistent standard of presentation. Footpaths, fences, walls, grass verges and road surfaces need attention. The bi-lingual sign on the Sligo road was noted, as was the lovely new wall under construction outside the Football Pitch, when this whole area is finished it will add an interesting aspect to this approach road. The trees, and well maintained green area looked well on the Boyle Road, but some repairs are needed to the stone wall on this road. The grass and perennial bed both looked very well around the speed sign on the Charlstown road. The flower boxes at the junction of the Ballina road look well, but highlight the untidy area around them. The Car Park behind the Stat Oil Garage could be tidied up. The new footpaths and trees look well on one side of the Ballina Road. The by-pass has some tidy green areas, but there is still some graffiti left here. The old railway junction box could be developed into a nice feature. The main road surfaces and signs within the town look well.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Tubbercurry is situated on the main route for many tourist and domestic destinations. Any positive development enhances and enriches both the town and community and, increases the attraction for people to stop and enjoy what is on offer. As stated last year, your partnership with local bodies, community organisations continues to show good effect. Persevere with the dereliction issue and keep up the good work.